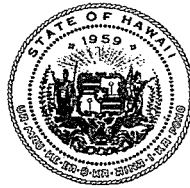


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LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

CITY CLERK  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**City & County of Honolulu  
Committee on Parks**

**Bill 11, (2013), CD1 Relating To Executive Operating Budget and Program for  
the Fiscal Year July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.**

**Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.  
Director of Health**

**April 17, 2013**

**Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports the line items in Amendment List 16 (p. 39) of Bill 11, (2013), CD1 under "Recreational Services" in the amount \$90,000 for staffing and \$10,000 for EBT terminal installation and maintenance.

**Fiscal Implications:** N/A

**Purpose and Justification:** The Department of Health strongly supports Resolution 13-1 and funding in Bill 11, (2013), CD1 to support staffing and terminals to provide access to SNAP Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) benefits at the City and County People's Open Market ("POM") sites. The budget line items under "Recreational Services" in Amendment List 16 (p. 39) in the amount of \$90,000 for staffing and \$10,000 for EBT terminals are necessary and fully justified for the establishment of EBT access.

Currently, there are 62 farmers markets in the City and County of Honolulu. 25 of those markets are operated by the City and County POM program. In the entire county, only 6 markets provide EBT terminal access, of which POM market comprises only one (1). Currently, the EBT terminal access at that one POM exists only because the local community health center in the community voluntarily stepped forward to take responsibility for providing EBT access for their community.

EBT POS terminals are the means by which recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") (formerly called Food Stamp Program) access the benefits allotted to them by the

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1 Hawaii's low-income population has the highest levels of diet-related chronic diseases and the  
2 lowest levels of fruit and vegetable consumption in the State. Additionally, low-income populations  
3 have been documented to have less access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

4 Further, the Department is supportive of the original intent of at the POM program to provide the  
5 public, especially those with less income, opportunity to:

- 6 1. Purchase fresh agricultural and aquaculture products and other food items at lower cost,
- 7 2. Support the economic viability of diversified agriculture by providing market sites for  
8 local farmers and vendors, and
- 9 3. Create focal points for neighbors to come together and encourage healthy living.

10 This resolution would restore the intent of the program to provide access to affordable fresh fruits and  
11 vegetables in Oahu neighborhoods.

12  
13 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.  
14